

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/697,465
Response to Office Action mailed 8/25/2003

Docket No. 5785-23

REMARKS

The amendments and remarks address the Office Action dated August 25, 2003. At the time of the Office Action, claims 21-35 and 37-55 were pending in this application. This amendment is timely filed within the three month statutory period for response.

In the Office Action, claims 40-55 were allowed. Claims 22-24, 29 and 38-39 were objected to. Claims 21, 25-28, 30-35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a). The rejections are set out in more detail below.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

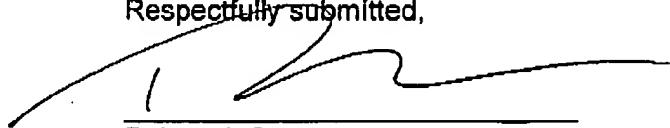
The Examiner noted that claims 40-55 have been allowed. Additionally, the Examiner noted that claims 22-24, 29 and 38-39 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, base claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 29 and the intervening dependent claims. The claim has also been amended for greater clarity. Claim 30 has been amended to depend upon amended claim 21. Claims 22, and 37-39 have been canceled.

II. Conclusion

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the cited references, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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